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Commission for Social Development
Thirty-sixth session
10-20 February 1998
Agenda item 4

Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 1996/7, the Economic and Social Council approved the substantive items of the agenda of the Commission for Social Development for its future sessions. The following draft provisional agenda is submitted to the Commission for review and adoption at its present session, taking into account resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission itself, and will be submitted to the Council for approval.

2. The attention of the Commission is drawn to General Assembly resolution 52/25, by which the Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly on an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. The Commission will be informed of the decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session (19-22 May 1998).

3. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. The Commission will continue its practice of considering the substantive topics on its agenda from a gender perspective.

4. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/81 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/19, consideration of matters relating to the family and to persons with disabilities will be an integral part of the Commission's multi-year programme of work on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. The Commission will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the desirability and feasibility of elaborating United Nations guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session through the Commission.

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5. In accordance with earlier decisions of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission, the Commission will consider, under item 3 (b) of the agenda of its thirty-seventh session, issues pertaining to ageing, in particular the International Year of Older Persons (1999).

6. The Commission will also have before it the outcome of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998).

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development:

The Commission will review progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and consider at each of its sessions issues relating to the enabling environment for social development, the special situation of Africa and the least developed countries, enhancement of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes, the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development, and the framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development.

(a) Priority themes:

(i) Social services for all;

(ii) Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on social services for all

Report of the Secretary-General on the initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of expert workshop(s)

Note by the Secretary-General regarding the International Year of Older Persons and follow-up arrangements

4. Programme questions and other matters:

(a) Programme performance and implementation;

(b) Proposed programme of work of the Secretariat for the biennium 2000-2001;

(c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session.

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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda item 3 (b)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: REVIEW OF RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION PERTAINING TO THE SITUATION OF SOCIAL GROUPS

Draft decision submitted by the Coordinators of the ad hoc informal open-ended support group to assist the Commission for Social Development in the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons in 1999, Mr. Aurelio Fernandez (Spain) and Mrs. Julia Tavares de Alvarez (Dominican Republic)

Options for the future review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

The Commission for Social Development, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on options for the future review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing,[1] decides:

(a) To take note of the report of the Secretary-General;

(b) To emphasize the importance of the improvement of data collection in the field of ageing to the review and appraisal exercise;

(c) To stress the need for a more focused [and substantially improved] method of monitoring the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, which may involve strengthening, reformulating or changing the current methodology;

(d) To stress the need to introduce a gender perspective into the review and appraisal process of the Plan of Action;

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[1] E/CN.5/1998/5.

(e) To [welcome] [take note of] the reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the opportunities for better synergies that it offers, including making better use of the existing information, expertise, statistical, research and technical assistance capacities already available to the Department;

(f) To request the Secretary-General to explore ways of using these opportunities in order to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to review the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(g) To request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue its contact with the United Nations Development Programme in order to explore, among other possibilities, the feasibility of an ageing-related development index to be included in the Human Development Report;

(h) To invite the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to draw up, for further discussion by the Commission, proposals on developing an Internet database on public policies and programmes on ageing;

(i) To request the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-seventh session, a report on action taken to implement the present decision and on further possible options for substantially improving the reliability, validity and practicability of the current review and appraisal exercise, focusing in particular on priorities identified in ongoing preparatory discussions for the International Year of Older Persons.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: REVIEW OF RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION PERTAINING TO THE SITUATION OF SOCIAL GROUPS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Aurelio Fernandez (Spain)

Activities of the ad hoc informal open-ended support group to assist the Commission for Social Development in the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons

The Commission for Social Development, having heard the oral report made by the Coordinators of the ad hoc informal open-ended support group to assist the Commission for Social Development in the preparations for the International year of Older Persons:

(a) Decides that the support group, in addition to its current activities of promoting awareness and exchange of information on the preparations for the International Year between States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, will serve as an informal consultative forum for discussing national and international proposals and initiatives to help lay the groundwork for the discussion of the item on the International Year at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission;

(b) Recommends that the Economic and Social Council rename the support group as the Consultative Group for the International Year of Older Persons, keeping the informal and open-ended nature of the Group.

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